Minutes of Committee Meeting held on
March 8, 1917, at the Century Club,
New York City.

By Act of Congress, approved August 31, 1916, the erection of a memorial to John Ericsson in the city of Washington, at a cost of $35,000, was authorized. The Sundry Civil Bill for the fiscal year 1918 contained an appropriation for this amount, but through failure of passage of the bill during the last Congress this appropriation has not been made. The authorization places the erection of the memorial in charge of a Congressional commission, composed of the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library, the chairman of the House Committee on the Library, and the Secretary of the Navy, but provides "that the design and location of said memorial, and the plan for the treatment of the ground connected with its site shall be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts."

Although the Congressional commission has, as yet, had no function to perform, its chairman, Senator John Sharp Williams, on his own initiative appointed an Advisory Committee composed of about thirty-five prominent Swedes. Representatives of this Committee had been in Washington looking over available sites and were in favor of a site immediately east of the Pan-American building on the north and south axis of the State, War and Navy building. They had requested a conference with the Commission of Fine Arts with respect to this site at the earliest possible moment; and, since it was expected that an official meeting in Washington would not be called for several months, on account of the shortage of funds, the chairman appointed Mr. Hastings, Mr. Platt, Mr. Kendall, and Mr. Adams a committee whom the representatives of the Advisory Committee could meet in New York for a discussion of the problem. This committee meeting was arranged for at the Century Club on March 8th, the chairman attending ex officio. Colonel Harts, Secretary, and Mr. Cammerer, Clerk to the Commission, had been directed by the chairman to attend this meeting and to bring with them all necessary data for the information

of the committee. All these gentlemen were present.

1. ERICSSON MEMORIAL: At 10:30 a. m. Mr. Eckberg, Mr. Bergquist, and Mr. Aspegren, representing the Advisory Committee, appeared for the conference. Mr. Eckberg, acting as the spokesman for his committee, read a report in which they unanimously recommended the site above mentioned. (See Exhibit "A" for report.) In concluding he gave the assurance of his committee that it was their endeavor to secure the best possible results under any circumstances and that they were anxious to cooperate with the Commission of Fine Arts in every way. Mr. Moore accepted the report on behalf of the Commission and expressed his appreciation of the spirit with which they met the task. He stated that before the Commission could give any definite opinion as to the suitability of the site it would be necessary for them to make an inspection in person on the ground.

The Advisory Committee's report concluded by recommending the holding of competition in which five eminent sculptors would be invited to compete and paid for their models; in other ways the competition would be open to the public. A considerable discussion regarding the method of selecting a designer ensued, Mr. Adams emphasizing the necessity of having a satisfactory programme of competition. Mr. Moore assured them that they would have the heartiest cooperation of the Commission in securing the best site available, and that, if the site they selected was not suitable for the purpose, one as good or better, that will be satisfactory to the committee will be found. Mr. Eckberg assured the members that they were willing to leave all details as to the selection of the design to the Commission but that they were exceedingly anxious to have that site. The representatives of the Ericsson Advisory Committee then left.

2. ALEXANDER HAMILTON MEMORIAL: Colonel Harts informed the members that the proposition to erect a memorial to Alexander Hamilton in Washington had recently been taken up anew and that the prospect was bright that it would soon be com-

pleted. He explained that on March 4, 1909, Congress authorized the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Association to erect a memorial to Alexander Hamilton in the city of Washington, and that $10,000 was then appropriated for the preparation of a site and the erection of a pedestal. This $10,000 is still available, and in addition, the Commission has privately collected from $6,000 to $7,000, which is now in bank. On February 15, 1911, representatives of the memorial association appeared before the Commission of Fine Arts and secured approval of a site for the proposed statue upon the platform on the south front and on the north and south axis of the Treasury Department building, the exact place to be determined only after careful study. He stated that the Secretary of the Treasury had informed him recently that an anonymous donor has engaged Mr. James E. Fraser to design this memorial and that the latter had inspected the site and conferred with him (Colonel Harts) in regard to the details. He added that the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Association were in sympathy with this movement on the part of the private donor to erect this memorial and had consented to it, with the further assurance that they would cooperate in every way to secure the erection of this memorial and would place their present funds at the disposal of the Secretary of the Treasury for whatever purpose they would best serve.

3. "TITANIC" MEMORIAL: Colonel Harts advised the members that the Woman's "Titanic" Memorial Association had on the 3d of March of this year secured the consent of Congress for the erection of an appropriate memorial to those who lost their lives in the sinking of the Titanic, and that the act contained the provision "that the site chosen, and the design of the memorial shall be approved by the Joint Library Committee of Congress and the Commission of Fine Arts." The erection of a memorial in Potomac Park, however, had been specifically denied by Congress. He stated that representatives of the association were consulting with Mr. Henry Bacon, architect, for a suitable location, and that a number of sites were going to be tried out before they would come before the Commission for formal approval

of the site decided upon. They seemed now to favor a location on the waterfront at the crossing of the axes at New Hampshire Avenue and E Street, Northwest.

4. JACKSON AND FRANKLIN STATUES: Colonel Harts stated that the Postmaster-General has suggested the desirability of a relocation of the present Jackson Monument in conjunction with the north side of the Treasury Department building, and the relocation of the present Franklin statue at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and D Street, Northwest, with relation to the present Post Office Department building, and asked the opinion of the members present on these proposals. They were unanimous that no such changes should be made. They felt that the size of the Franklin statue was entirely too small to have it located in such close conjunction to the Post Office Department building, and that the statue itself was too bad a piece of sculpture to be honored and possibly perpetuated by removal to a better site; they advised that unless an effort be made to remove it or replace it with a worthy memorial, it be left where it now is. They also felt that the character and type of the construction of the Jackson monument and the Treasury Department building were of such different periods that the relocation of the monument anywhere so near that structure, or in conjunction with any modern building, would detract from both. (See Exhibit "B".)

5. BOTANIC GARDEN: Colonel Harts brought to the attention of the members a letter from Hon. James L. Slayden, chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, asking for "a comprehensive report as to what the Commission of Fine Arts regard as the best solution of the Botanic Garden problem, including a review of sites available for the Botanic Garden itself, and what area in the vicinity of the Capitol may be had at a minimum or no expense for a Capitol Flower Garden, and such facts and figures as will assist the Committee in its consideration of this subject." The members discussed this question briefly but took no action at this time.

6. KEY BRIDGE DESIGN: Colonel Harts showed the members a third design for the

Key Bridge, to which he had given the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, with the following explanations: The first design which had received the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts was a double-decked design; in figuring upon the cost of this structure after the approval of the Commission had been given it was found that the design could not be executed within the total limit of cost of $1,000,000, the estimate in this case being $1,900,000. The design was, therefore, simplified by eliminating the double-deck feature and making a number of changes in the approaches; the revised design, it was figured, could be constructed for about $1,400,000. This again received the active approval of the Commission of Fine Arts at the last meeting in Washington. The Engineer Officer in charge of this project felt that Congress would be willing to increase the limit of cost of the structure to the $1,400,000 mark, particularly, as the design could, it was believed, in normal times be built within the $1,000,000; the rise in the price of material and labor being responsible for the additional cost. Upon approaching the committee of Congress, however, Colonel Flagler, the Engineer Officer, saw that no increase above the $1,000,000 would be sanctioned in any way and it became necessary for him, very hurriedly, to revise the plans again to come within the $1,000,000. This revised design followed in elevation the preceding design approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, but savings were effected by narrowing the bridge and by a change in the treatment of the approaches. Since the design met with the approval of both Mr. Wyeth and Colonel Flagler and conformed in elevation with the ideas and suggestions of the Commission, Colonel Harts affixed the approval of the Commission tothis design. He stated, however, that in so doing he called attention to what appeared to him a very awkward treatment of the approach at the Georgetown end, but felt that inasmuch as Colonel Flagler has assured him that any changes in detail that the Commission felt were desired could be adjusted later on if the Commission wished to take any steps in the matter. For this reason the

above explanation was made. The members agreed with Colonel Harts regarding the design for the Georgetown approach and expressed the hope that it would be restudied.

7. SMOKESTACK FOR "MERIDIAN MANSIONS" APARTMENTS ON SIXTEENTH STREET: Colonel Harts next laid before the committee a letter from the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia stating that application had been made on them for permission to erect, in conjunction with the power plant for a new apartment house being constructed at 16th and Crescent Streets, of a chimney of a height of approximately 100 feet. The letter explained that the power plant for the apartment house would be in a separate structure on Kalorama Road, and that under the Height of Buildings Act the owner was entitled to build to the height of 50 feet, but that the Commissioners have discretionary power to permit this height to be increased. The purpose of the high chimney was said to be to obviate the objection that would be made to a low chimney on account of the gases which would blow into the windows of not only this apartment house but others which might be erected in the vicinity. A copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit "C". The committee advised that the intrusion of any power plant of considerable size, such as the one proposed, is objectionable in any highly developed residential section as upper Sixteenth St., and in particular is the erection of smokestacks injurious to such neighborhoods from an artistic standpoint. Such plants should, in their opinion, be restricted to such localities as would be less likely to be injured by them, or, as is usual in order to obviate artistic and sanitary objections, be incorporated in the construction of the main building itself. The committee advised that if the power plant can not be excluded from this neightborhood, that the chimney be kept at the lowest limit permissible under existing building rules. (See Exhibit "D".)

8. PROPOSED MEMORIAL TABLET TO GENERAL MORGAN, FOR CHALMETTE MONUMENT RESERVATION AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.: The Chief of Engineers had submitted to the Commission

a design for a proposed tablet in memory of General Morgan which the United States Daughters, 1776---1812, proposed to place on the Chalmette Monument Reservation at New Orleans, La., together with a blueprint showing the proposed method of mounting, which was to be on a rough-hewn boulder, and requested an expression of opinion as to whether the proposed memorial should be permitted to be placed, and advice as to what location would be best suited for it. Mr. Adams, who had been appointed a committee in this matter, advised that the Commission recommend disapproval of the application to place the memorial as designed on the reservation. The wording on the inscription was considered a conspicuous example of bad English, and the use of the rough-hewn boulder setting was considered objectionable, -- it should be cut stone they thought, no matter how simple in design. This report was accepted and adopted as the report of the Commission. (See Exhibit "E".)

9. PROPOSED ZONING AND BUILDING HEIGHT BILL: Colonel Harts then laid before the Commission a letter from the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia enclosing a draft of a proposed zoning and building height bill which was modeled upon similar legislation adopted by the city of New York, and which was a modification of Senate Bill 2922, 64th Congress 1st Session, introduced by Senator Gallinger on August 21, 1916. The bill submitted was tentative in form and was drafted for the purpose of discussion before adoption, it being stated to be the intention of the Commissioners to grant a public hearing upon it after suggestions had been made by the Commission of Fine Arts and others to whom a draft of the bill had been submitted for remarks. The Engineer Commissioner requested the submission at the earliest possible moment of such suggestions as the Commission would care to make in order that a satisfactory bill on this subject could be introduced at the next session of Congress. The bill was not discussed in detail by the members, but Mr. Moore stated that it was his intention to consult Mr. George B. Ford, of the firm of architects of George B. Post & Sons, who had been the expert in charge

of the New York city bill, and that he would endeavor to have Mr. Ford appear at one of the hearings to be held by the District Commissioners on this matter. A definite reply was held over.

10. SUBMISSION BY P. B. & G. FOR STUDIES OF FIELD HOUSE GROUP IN EAST POTOMAC PARK, A PROPOSED TREATMENT OF "B" STREET CENTER PARKING, A PROPOSED TREATMENT OF THE OLD GEORGETOWN RESERVOIR, AND THE PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MERIDIAN HILL PARK: The following is the result of the inspection of these plans:

		(P.B.&G. File No.)
Field House Group:		
Submission:	Preliminary sketch plan	333.26
	General group and grading plan	333.27
	Elevations of F.H. with wood cornice	333.28
	Alternate" of F.H. with stone cornice	333.29
	Side elevation and sections of F.H.	333.30
	Plan of Field House	333.31
	Plan and elevation of large boat house	333.32
	Alternate elevations and sections of small boat houses	333.33
	Plan of small boat houses	333.34

Commission
- expressed preference for open wood cornice with exposed rafter ends;
- recommended subordination of side doorways with elimination of transom and full arch openings into assembly hall as shown on section;
- suggested substitution of "winkers" or "eyebrow dormers" for ventilating cupolas;
- advised restudy of door motives on field elevations with simple trim and possible change to panel instead of circular opening;
- agreed to elimination of upper windows of refectory;
- modified lines of main roof;
- liked changed sections;
- preferred rusticated terrace and accompanying elevation of small boat houses; suggested restudy with field house; advised elimination of break in plan on land side;
- had no suggestions re. large boat houses;
- commended grouping of courts and curved lines of basin.

"B" Street Center Parking:

Submission:	Alternate schemes for treatment	(A)2.43 (B)2.44 (C)2.45 (D)2.46

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Commission - approved simplest schemes (A), using continuous filler with terminal ascents.

Meridian Hill Park:

Submission: 1914 plan of park.

Commission - advised elimination of roadways and restudy of upper level with concert feature at back of great terrace and central treatment flanked with informal development; suggested preparation of large scale model for study of problem.

Georgetown Reservoir:

Submission: Sketch for proposed treatment 325.8

Commission - recommended elimination of old reservoir structure altogether and development of plaza on upper level; suggested inspection at next meeting.

The committee then had lunch, at which Mr. Henry Bacon, Mr. Daniel Chester French, Mr. Jules Guerin, Mr. Edwin W. Blashfield, Mr. Cass Gilbert and Mr. Horace W. Peaslee were guests. After lunch a short while was occupied by a general discussion on various topics. They then proceeded to the studio of Jules Guerin on East 23d Street. Mr. Guerin had prepared sketches for his proposed two mural paintings for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, and the Lincoln Memorial Commission had requested the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts regarding them. The formal report of the Commission to the Lincoln Memorial Commission was as follows: "The Commission of Fine Arts have inspected the sketches for the mural paintings for the Lincoln Memorial by Jules Guerin at his studio and were much impressed by the dignified character of the design. They consider it well in accord with the architecture, -- in fact most satisfactory in every respect. Approval is recommended."

The committee then adjourned.

Approved: Charles Moore
Chairman.

Colonel, U.S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Washington, D.C.,
February 12, 1917.

Hon. Charles Moore,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

The Expert Advisory Committee appointed by the John Ericsson Memorial Commission, begs to report that it has carefully considered the various sites suggested for the John Ericsson Memorial.

The Committee unanimously recommends that a site on the park side of 17th Street between B. & C. - corner of B. street - be approved by your honorable Commission.

As our Committee is desirous of securing this site, it is encouraged to learn that the above selection is in accordance with the views of Senator Williams, Congressman Slayden and Colonel Harts.

Our Committee being mindful of Washington beautiful further wishes to state that it considers only a memorial of the very highest artistic character and particularly appropriate to this site; and in order to obtain such result begs to advise your Commission that any funds required above the Congressional appropriation will be met by private subscription, the amount of which subscription will be in your hands by June 1st.

As to the design of the Memorial, our Committee recommends that it consist of a bust of Ericsson in the round or a bust in high bas relief properly surrounded or connected with figures symbolic of his life's work, or expressed perhaps in a more poetic way as "The conquest of the ocean" (Neptune with possibly such addition of small tablets indicating his greatest inventions as the sculptor sees fit. All this in strict accordance with the scale of the

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surroundings so the memorial belongs to its place.

We recommend the procedure of competition to be: That a limited number, say five eminent sculptors be invited to compete and paid for their models, and in addition the competition be open to all of the profession.

Respectfully submitted,

August Franzen, Artist,
222 East 59th St.,
New York City.

Axel S. Hedman, Architect,
371 Fulton Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Andrew Sandegren, Architect,
111 W. Washington St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Committee

J. G. Bergquist,
Brymptonwood,
Glen Head, N.Y.

Secretary to the Committee.

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Secretary to the Committee.

March 12, 1917.

My dear Mr. Burleson:

In accordance with your request during a recent conversation, I have had studies prepared in my office showing the Franklin statue relocated on available sites near the main entrance of the Post Office Department building, and the Jackson monument now in Lafayette Park relocated on available sites at the north entrance of the Treasury Department building. I am enclosing photographs of these studies, which are to proper scale, for your information.

I had the opportunity to discuss the question of the removal of the two monuments, as indicated by the exhibits, with the Commission of Fine Arts, and the members were unanimous in their opinion that no such changes should be made. The size of the Franklin statue, they felt, is entirely too small to be located in such close conjunction to a building of the size and bulk of the Post Office Department building, - they are quite incompatible in scale; and, furthermore, they considered the Franklin too bad a piece of sculpture to be honored and possibly perpetuated by removal to a better site, - they advised that, unless an effort be made to remove it entirely or replace it with a worthy memorial, it be left where it now is. As to the Jackson they said that the character and type of construction of the monument and the Treasury Department building are of such different periods that the relocation of the monument anywhere so near that structure, or in conjunction with any modern building, would detract from both.

If there are any further studies you would like to have prepared, or any additional information you desire, I know you will not hesitate to call on me for them.

With best wishes and kindest regards, believe me,

Most sincerely, yours,

(Signed) WM. W. HARTS,

Colonel, U.S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. A. S. Burleson,

The Postmaster General.

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Most sincerely, yours,

(Signed) WM. H. HAYES,

Colonel, U.S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. A. S. Burleson,

The Postmaster General.

Engineer Commissioner
of the District of Columbia
Washington

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March 1, 1917.

Colonel W. W. Harts,
Executive Officer, The Commission
of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Application has been made to the Commissioners by Kennedy Bros., Inc., in connection with the apartment house which they are building at Sixteenth and Crescent streets NW., for permission to erect, in conjunction with the power plant, a chimney of a height of approximately 100 feet. The power plant for the apartment house is in a separate structure fronting on Kalorama road, and the proposed chimney is to be approximately on the west line of lot 812, square 2571, and about 20 feet from the south line of Kalorama road.

Under the height of building Act, the owner is entitled to build to a height of 50 feet, but the Commissioners have discretionary power to permit the height to be increased. The purpose of the high chimney is to obviate the serious objections that will undoubtedly be made to a low chimney on account of the gases, which would blow into the windows not only of this apartment house but of others that may be erected in the vicinity. The applicants are willing to construct the chimney of light-colored brick, the same as that used in the exterior of the apartment house, and to select an ornamental and graceful design.

Serious objection has been made to the high chimney by Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Henry White, both large property owners in the vicinity, and both expressed the hope that the Commissioners would not authorize the chimney without the approval of the Fine Arts Commission. For this reason, the matter is forwarded to you for submission to the Commission, if you feel that the Commission would care to give consideration to a relatively small matter of this kind.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) C.W.KUTZ

Engineer Commissioner, D.C.

P.S. I enclose a photograph showing the proposed chimney.
C.W.K.

Engineer Commissioner
of the District of Columbia
Washington

March 1, 1917.

Colonel W. W. Harts,
Executive Officer, The Commission
of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Application has been made to the Commissioners by Kennedy Bros., Inc., in connection with the apartment house which they are building at Sixteenth and Crescent streets NW., for permission to erect, in conjunction with the power plant, a chimney of a height of approximately 160 feet. The power plant for the apartment house is in a separate structure fronting on Belcrema road, and the proposed chimney is to be approximately on the west line of lot 812, square 2571, and about 30 feet from the south line of Belcrema road.

Under the height of building Act, the owner is entitled to build to a height of 80 feet, but the Commissioners have discretionary power to permit the height to be increased. The purpose of the high chimney is to obviate the serious objections that will undoubtedly be made to a low chimney on account of the smoke, which would blow into the windows not only of this apartment house but of others that may be erected in the vicinity. The applicants are willing to construct the chimney of light-colored brick, the same as that used in the exterior of the apartment house, and to select an ornamental and graceful design.

Serious objection has been made to the high chimney by Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Henry White, both large property owners in the vicinity, and both engineers the hope that the Commissioners would not authorize the chimney without the approval of the Fine Arts Commission. For this reason, the matter is formally to you for submission to the Commission, if you feel that the Commission would care to give consideration to a relatively small matter of this kind.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) C.W.KUTZ

Engineer Commissioner, D.C.

D.C. I enclose a photograph showing the proposed chimney.
C.W.K.

March 9, 1917.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts have given careful consideration to your letter of March first, asking for an opinion regarding the height to which the chimney of the power plant for the apartment house being constructed at Sixteenth and Crescent streets, northwest, should be permitted to be erected.

The intrusion of any power plant of considerable size such as the one proposed is objectionable in any highly developed residential section as upper Sixteenth Street, and in particular is the erection of smokestacks injurious to such neighborhoods from an artistic standpoint. Such plants should, if possible, be restricted to localities that are less likely to be injured by them, or by incorporating them in the construction of the main building itself, as is usual, in order to obviate artistic and sanitary objections. If the power house and chimney cannot be excluded under the law from this neighborhood, the Commission advise that the chimney be kept at the lowest limit permissible under the present building rules.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) WM. W. HARTS,

Colonel, U.S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Lieut. Col. C. W. Kutz,
Corps of Engineers, USA,
Engineer Commissioner, D.C.

March 10, 1917.

General:

In accordance with your request of February twenty-seventh last (62681), the Commission of Fine Arts have inspected the design for the proposed memorial tablet which is proposed to be placed on the Chalmette Monument Reservation at New Orleans, Louisiana, to the memory of General David Bannister Morgan.

They recommend disapproval of the application to place this memorial, as designed, on the reservation. The wording of the inscription is a conspicuous example of bad English, and the use of the rough-hewn boulder setting is considered objectionable, - it should be cut stone, no matter how simple in design.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) WM. W. HARRIS
Colonel, U.S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Chief of Engineers, U.S.A.,
War Department.

March 16, 1917.

General:

In accordance with your request of February twenty-seventh last (62681), the Commission of Fine Arts have inspected the design for the proposed memorial tablet which is proposed to be placed on the Chalmette Monument reservation at New Orleans, Louisiana, to the memory of General David Bannister Morgan.

They recommend disapproval of the application to place this memorial, as designed, on the reservation. The wording of the inscription is a conspicuous example of bad English, and the use of the rough-hewn boulder setting is considered objectionable, - it should be cut stone, no matter how simple in design.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. [illegible]

Colonel, U.S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Chief of Engineers, U.S.A.,

War Department.